

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /055 W

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O R 031910Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6284

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5177

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: KING NAMES SUAREZ NEW PRIME MINISTER

1. THE KING NAMED ADOLFO SUAREZ GONZALEZ PRIME MINISTER TODAY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE OTHER TWO MEMBERS OF THE PANEL OF THREE MAY HAVE BEEN AREILZA AND SILVA MUNOZ (THE CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT) BUT THIS IS NOT CONFIRMED.

2. SUAREZ IS YOUNG AS SPANISH POLITICAL LEADERS GO (43 YEARS OLD), BRIGHT AND HIGHLY ARTICULATE, AND HAILS FROM THE PROVINCE OF AVILA. THOUGH HE CAME UP THROUGH THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT, HE HAS DEMONSTRATED FLEXIBILITY AND PRAGMATISM AND HAS BEEN ONE OF THE OLD CABINET'S ACKNOWLEDGED REFORMERS AND A MAN WHO HAS GROWN INCREASINGLY CLOSE TO THE KING. IN HIS POST OF MINISTER OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT, IT WAS HIS TASK TO DEEMPHASIZE THIS CREATION
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OF FRANCO IN ORDER TO PAVE THE WAY FOR NORMAL POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

OPPOSITION FIGURES OFTEN SPEAK WELL OF HIM, BUT HIS REFORMIST STANCE HAS GAINED HIM ENEMIES ON THE RIGHT.

3. BASIC BIO INFO WAS FURNISHED IN MADRID'S 8121, AND SOME INSIGHTS INTO HIS THINKING ARE FOUND IN MADRID'S 7513, 7823, 7986 (NOTAL) AND MADRID'S A-211 OF OCTOBER 31, 1975. SUAREZ'S VIEWS HAVE BEEN CONTINUINGLY EVOLVING (E.G. AT THE TIME OF FRANCO'S DEATH, HE WAS AN ADVOCATE OF KEEPING ARIAS IN THE PRIME MINISTRY, BUT LATER HE BECAME CONCERNED ABOUT ARIAS'S LEADERSHIP.) IN THE LIGHT OF HIS NEW RESPONSIBILITIES, ONE EARLIER COMMENT OF SUAREZ TO US IS WORTH RECALLING, HIS REMARK THAT EVENTS RATHER THAN PROGRAMMATIC THEORIES WOULD HAVE TO GOVERN POLITICAL APPROACHES IN THE TNONSITION.
STABLER

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